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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 248147

17
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 GAO-01 ABF-01 SIG-01 A-01 SS-15

PM-04 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /066 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:VLEHOVICH:MEM
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES
OSD/ISA:HHOLTZCLAW
LA/BF/OAG:DQUAID (PHONE)
GAO:HSTRAIN (PHONE)
EUR/WE:JDOBBINS
EUR/NE:KSHIRLEY/JPSHUMATE
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
GAO
---------- 078106
R 060058Z OCT 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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INFO USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
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USLOSACLANT

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E.O11652:N/A

TAGS: OTRA, NATO, AGAO

SUBJECT:GAO STUDY TRIP ON STANDARDIZATION
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PAGE 02 STATE 248147

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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REFS: A. STATE 103222 DTG 290354Z APR 76; B. STATE 117600
DTG 131510Z MAY 76; C. STATE 143416 DTG 121220Z JUNE 76
(ALL NOTAL)

FRANKFURT PASS GAO.

1. GAO REPS BASED IN FRANKFURT, ACCOMPANIED BY HYMAN S. BARAS (GS-15) FROM GAO WASHINGTON, PLAN TO VISIT ACTION ADDRESSEE CAPITALS IN PERIOD FROM LATE OCTOBER THROUGH MID-NOVEMBER TO CONTINUE STUDY OUTLINED IN REF A. GAO REPS INTEND TO BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH ACTION ADDRESSEES. SUBJECT TO ADDRESSEE POSTS' JUDGMENT, PLEASE ASSIST IN ARRANGING FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH DEFENSE AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

2. ---- FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT OF GAO OBJECTIVES PROVIDED REF A:

QUOTE. THIS REVIEW WILL EXAMINE HOW THE MILITARY SERVICES AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE VIEW THE BENEFITS, COSTS, AND PROCUREMENT PROBLEMS OF ACHIEVING

STANDARDIZATION IN NATO. GAO WILL ALSO OBTAIN VIEWS FROM U.S. FIELD COMMANDERS IN EUROPE AS WELL AS NATO COMMANDERS. PLANS AND PROGRAMS UNDERWAY OR CONTEMPLATED IN THE NATO HEADQUARTERS, CIVIL AND MILITARY, WILL BE ASSESSED. GAO WILL ASSESS WHAT STANDARDIZATION NOW EXISTS IN NATO.

GAO'S OBJECTIVES ARE:

(1) TO EXAMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH STANDARDIZATION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN NATO.

(2) TO DETERMINE THE TYPES OF ARMAMENTS WHICH CAN PRACTICALLY BE STANDARDIZED FOR NATO'S USE.

(3) TO IDENTIFY THE MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FORCES WHICH OPERATE TO SLOW THE PROGRESS OF STANDARDIZATION AND HOW THEY CAN BE COUNTERACTED, INCLUDING: (A) AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

IDENTIFICATION OF THE TYPES OF AGREEMENTS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE GREATER STANDARDIZATION, AND (B) A DETERMINATION OF THE IMPACT ON STANDARDIZATION OF SUCH MATTERS AS THE BUY AMERICAN ACT, THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, SECURING LICENSING RIGHTS, DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN SOURCES OF SUPPLY, PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF NATO MEMBERS, AND THE STATE OF TECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY AMONG SMALLER NATIONS. UNQUOTE.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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3. FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT OFGUIDELINES FOR
ARRANGING CONTACTS CONTAINED REF B:

QUOTE. WE WANT TO CALL ATTENTION OF ADDRESSEES TO FACT
THAT WHILE GAO IS INVESTIGATIVE ARM OF U.S. CONGRESS,
THERE IS NO OBLIGATION ON THE PART OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS
OR NATO CIVIL AND MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS OR OFFICIALS TO
MEET WITH GAO REPRESENTATIVES. ACCORDINGLY, ANY DISCUS-
SIONS WITH NATO ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS THAT MAY BE
ARRANGED BY ADDRESSEES SHOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY TO THE
EXTENT THAT SUCH OFFICIALS MAY BE PREPARED TO MEET WITH
THE GAO. UNQUOTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE248147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: VLEHOVICH:MEM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760376-0782
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761076/aaaacnxx.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 103222, 76 STATE 117600
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAO STUDY TRIP ON STANDARDIZATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: OTRA, AGAO, NATO, (BARAS, HYMAN S)
To: BONN BRUSSELS THE HAGUE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006